

# MODERN COMICS

QUALITY  
COMIC  
PUBLICATION

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MAY  
No. 97

GUIDED BY GHOSTLY  
TRADITION, GORGEOUS  
**ARDA THORN**  
PITS HER LAWLESS  
TALENTS AGAINST THE  
BRAIN AND BRAWN OF  
**BLACKHAWK**







WEB COMIC  
UNIVERSE.COM





# BE A SUCCESS AS A RADIO-TELEVISION TECHNICIAN

**TWO  
FREE BOOKS  
SHOW HOW  
MAIL COUPON**

*America's Fast Growing Industry  
Offers You...*

## I TRAINED THESE MEN AT HOME

**ONE SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS**  
I have been successful in my business since I started. I have a good income and I am happy. I have a good business and I am happy. I have a good business and I am happy.

**SECOND SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS**  
I have been successful in my business since I started. I have a good income and I am happy. I have a good business and I am happy. I have a good business and I am happy.

**THIRD SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS**  
I have been successful in my business since I started. I have a good income and I am happy. I have a good business and I am happy. I have a good business and I am happy.

**FOURTH SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS**  
I have been successful in my business since I started. I have a good income and I am happy. I have a good business and I am happy. I have a good business and I am happy.

**FIFTH SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS**  
I have been successful in my business since I started. I have a good income and I am happy. I have a good business and I am happy. I have a good business and I am happy.

**SIXTH SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS**  
I have been successful in my business since I started. I have a good income and I am happy. I have a good business and I am happy. I have a good business and I am happy.

**SEVENTH SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS**  
I have been successful in my business since I started. I have a good income and I am happy. I have a good business and I am happy. I have a good business and I am happy.

**EIGHTH SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS**  
I have been successful in my business since I started. I have a good income and I am happy. I have a good business and I am happy. I have a good business and I am happy.

## 1. EXTRA MONEY IN SPARE TIME

As part of my training course, I send you SPECIAL BOOKLETS showing the way you can get your own business in 24 hours or more. I send you EXTRA money in my spare time. I send you EXTRA money in my spare time. I send you EXTRA money in my spare time.

## 2. GOOD PAY JOB

Your first job is a good one. I send you SPECIAL BOOKLETS showing the way you can get your own business in 24 hours or more. I send you EXTRA money in my spare time. I send you EXTRA money in my spare time. I send you EXTRA money in my spare time.

## 3. BRIGHT FUTURE

And this is the bright future in television. Only 10 years ago, the radio was the only way to get news. Today, there are more than 100 radio stations in every city. There will be more than 1,000 radio stations in every city. There will be more than 1,000 radio stations in every city.



## I Will Train You at Home You Practice Servicing or Communications with MANY KITS

The radio industry of today with its growing demand for trained technicians. I will train you at home. I will train you at home. I will train you at home. I will train you at home. I will train you at home.

Radio, television, servicing, experiments, with many interesting and repeating devices, gives you practical experience. I send you the materials you need to get a good start. Everything I send is new and up to date.

### Mail Coupon for Books FREE

Choose either the ACTUAL LESSON in Radio Servicing with many pictures and diagrams, or the 14-page book, "HOW TO BE A SUCCESS IN RADIO-TELEVISION". Send FREE for your first graduate book and working. Send your name to J. E. SMITH, President, Dept. of Radio, Radio Institute, 1000 North 1st St., Radio City, Washington, D. C.

## VETERANS

GET THIS TRAINING WITHOUT COST UNDER G. I. BILL. MAIL COUPON NOW.

YOUR SERVICE TO  
HOME FRONT



### You Build This MODERN RADIO

As part of my training course, I send you SPECIAL BOOKLETS showing the way you can get your own business in 24 hours or more. I send you EXTRA money in my spare time. I send you EXTRA money in my spare time. I send you EXTRA money in my spare time.



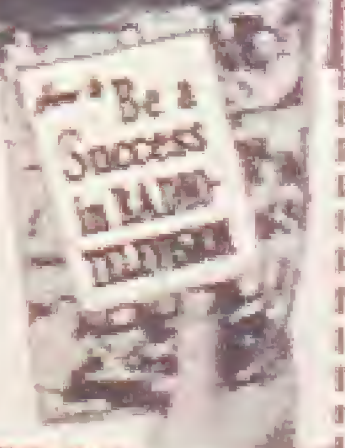
### You Build This TRANSMITTER

As part of my training course, I send you SPECIAL BOOKLETS showing the way you can get your own business in 24 hours or more. I send you EXTRA money in my spare time. I send you EXTRA money in my spare time. I send you EXTRA money in my spare time.

## Good for Both-FREE

MR. J. E. SMITH, President, Dept. of Radio, Radio Institute, Washington, D. C. Mail me Sample Lesson and 14-page Book about how to Win Success in Radio-Television-FREE. (No money will be sent. Please write today.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Check if Veteran Approved Under G. I. Bill





# BLACKHAWK

ANCESTRAL VOICES URGED ARDA THORN TO A LIFE OF CRIME!!!

HER FAMILY TRADITION FOLLOWED A HISTORY OF OUTLAWRY IN AMERICA FROM THE DAYS OF THE *FIRST FRONTIER*! WILD BLOOD RAGED IN HER VEINS, LAWLESS TALENTS DIRECTED HER WISHES AND ACTIONS --- BUT EVEN THE MOST BRILLIANT OF LAWLESS LADIES MUST SOONER OR LATER FIGHT IT OUT WITH THE *BLACKHAWKS*!



IT WAS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT THE BLACKHAWKS WOULD TRACK DOWN AND SMASH THE FIERCE GANG LED BY SCHOLAR SKEED...

YOUR THUGS ARE REATEN, SKEED! SURRENDER!

NATURALLY I'LL SURRENDER, BLACKHAWK! I'M OLD AND FEEBLE---I WOULDN'T BE SUCH A FOOL AS TO TRY FIGHTING IT OUT WITH YOU!

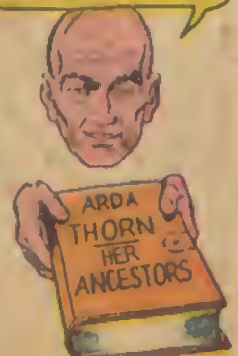


I'VE SPENT MUCH TIME LATELY IN WRITING *ANNALS OF OUTLAWRY*! FOR INSTANCE, THIS SEALED RECORD IS THE *GENEALOGY OF ARDA THORNE*!

ENFIN, BLACKHAWK! I HAVE NEVAIR HEARD OF ZIS ARDA THORN--- SOME GRIM FEMALE CHIEF OF CRIMINALS, SANS DOUTE!

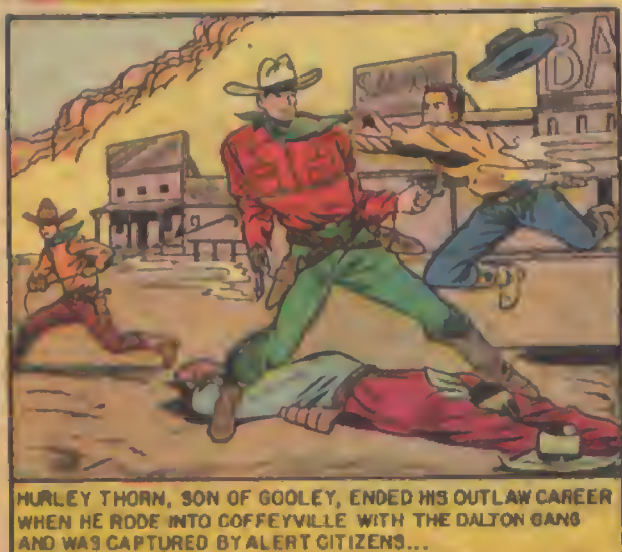
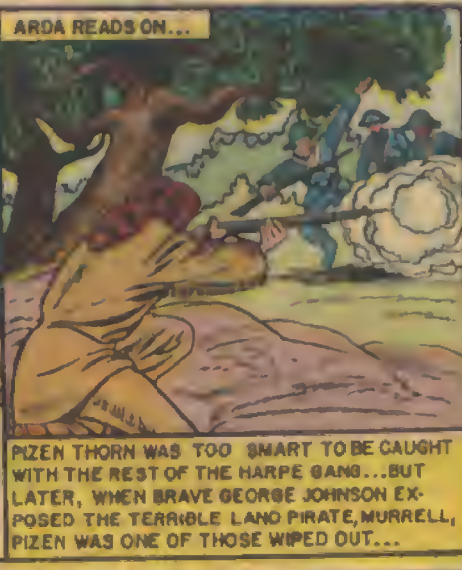


ON THE CONTRARY, ARDA IS A HARD-WORKING YOUNG STUDENT OF LAW AT THE STATE UNIVERSITY! REMARKABLE ONLY FOR HER *FIERCE FOREBEARS*! TAKE THE RECORD... AND I'M READY TO GO TO JAIL!





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NO! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...  
YET THIS RECORD IS  
CLEAR---



I AM THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF  
CHOPPER THORN... LIKE HIM,  
THE DESCENDANT OF A FAMILY  
OF FAMOUS OUTLAWS!



EVERY ONE OF MY ANCESTORS DEFIED  
THE LAW UNTIL A *SNEAKING SPY*  
BETRAYED HIM! HERE... MY FATHER,  
CHOPPER THORN, WAS RATTED ON  
BY HIS PARTNER AND LIEUTENANT,  
*SLIPPY DUVAN!*



I'VE HEARD OF SLIPPY DUVAN! HE'S RICH  
AND HAPPY... NOW I KNOW HOW HE GOT HIS  
MONEY! HE DOUBLE-CROSSED MY FATHER  
SO AS TO ENJOY *ALL THE LOOT!* I KNOW  
WHAT MYSTERIOUS INSTINCT CAUSED ME TO  
KEEP A HIDDEN TRINKET LIKE *THIS!*



THAT SAME NIGHT, AT THE LUXURIOUS HOME OF SLIPPY DUVAN...

WHO'S THAT AT  
THE WINDOW?



MY NAME IS *ARDA THORN*, MR.  
SLIPPY DUVAN! YOU DON'T KNOW  
ME, BUT YOU *KNEW MY FATHER!*

ARDA THORN!  
YOU CAN'T PROVE  
THAT I RATTED ON  
YOUR FATHER...  
YOU'VE PROVED  
IT YOURSELF...  
ADMITTING IT  
BEFORE I ASKED  
YOU! NOW, IF YOU  
WANT TO LIVE,  
HAND OVER THAT  
FORTUNE YOU  
BETRAYED HIM  
TO GET!



THE MONEY? BUT  
IT'S NOT HERE...  
IT'S IN A SAFE  
DEPOSIT BOX AT  
THE BANK...  
THOUSANDS OF  
DOLLARS!

I KNOW ABOUT  
IT! WRITE A  
POWER OF  
ATTORNEY  
GRANTING ME THE  
RIGHT TO OPEN  
THAT SAFE  
DEPOSIT BOX...  
*QUICK, OR...*



WHEN ARDA THORN GOES...  
*BLACKHAWK!* CALL *BLACKHAWK*  
TO THE TELEPHONE...  
*QUICKLY!*





QUICKLY DUVAN'S CALL IS ANSWERED...

BLACKHAWK! PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP ME! I BETRAYED CHOPPER THORN TO THE POLICE, BUT HIS DEVIL-CHILD CAME --- OHHH...

THIS MAN SEEMS TO HAVE COLLAPSED FROM SHEER TERROR! CHUCK, CALL A DOCTOR AT ONCE!



NEXT MORNING...

THIS MAN WILL LIVE, BLACKHAWK! BUT HE SEEMS TO HAVE AGED YEARS BECAUSE OF A FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE! HE MUMBLES ABOUT HIS BANK...

HENDRICKSON, CALL ON DUVAN'S BANKER! AND STANISLAUS, CHECK WITH POLICE ON ANY POSSIBLE ENEMIES!



HENDRICKSON GETS SURPRISING NEWS!

JUST BEFORE YOU CAME IN, SOMEONE CAME WITH A SIGNED ORDER FROM DUVAN AND TOOK EVERYTHING FROM HIS SAFE DEPOSIT BOX!



WHILE STANISLAUS UNCOVERS ANOTHER LEAD...

ANY REPORT OF CRIME ACTIVITIES, MR. COMMISSIONER?

THE ONLY INTERESTING REPORT IS THAT THREE OLD HENCHMEN OF CHOPPER THORN HAVE BEEN BAILED OUT OF PRISON BY A MYSTERIOUS FRIEND!



BLACKHAWK SEEKS TO SOLVE THE RIDDLE...

THE POLICE MENTIONED CHOPPER THORN... SO DID DUVAN? WHAT DOES THE NAME THORN MEAN TO YOU?

I'M TRYING TO FIGURE THAT OUT! GIVE US YOUR IDEA, CHOP CHOP!



ONLY THORN NAME CAN BRING TO MIND IS ARDA THORN... LAW-STUDY LADY WE GIVEE BOOK ABOUT ANCESTOR WHILE BACK!

AS I'VE OFTEN SAID BEFORE... SOMETIMES I THINK CHOP CHOP'S THE BRAINS OF THE BLACKHAWKS!



BUT WHERE HAS MA'M SELLE THORN VANISH TO? WE FIND NO TRACE...

WE'D BETTER START TRACING... FAST... BEFORE SOMETHING TRAGIC HAPPENS!









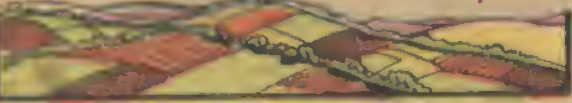




AGAIN THE BLACKHAWKS TAKE TO THE AIR ---

AREN'T THOSE THE  
OZARK HILLS BELOW US?  
WHY ARE WE GOING TO  
THE JESSE JAMES  
COUNTRY, BLACKHAWK?

BECAUSE BOB FORD...  
THE MAN WHO BETRAYED  
JESSE JAMES AND HIS  
GANG... LIVED THERE.  
AND MAY HAVE  
DESCENDANTS!



ONLY BRANDSON OF BOB  
FORD I EVER HEARD TELL OF  
IS FORD WILTERS! KINDA  
TRIFLIN' GUY... LIVES DOWN  
THE CREEK A PIECE! WHY  
YOU WANT HIM, STRANGER?

TO SAVE HIS LIFE!  
THANKS FOR THE  
INFORMATION!



AT FORD WILTERS' CABIN, "DOWN THE CREEK A PIECE" ---

FORD! ENSE! I SEE  
A BUNCH O' MEN IN  
BLUE UNIFORMS  
COMIN'!

IT'S THE LAW, BOGGLE!  
THEY MUST KNOW WE  
ROBBED THAT FEED  
STORE! GRAB YOUR  
GUNS AND HELP ME  
STAND 'EM OFF!



ALLRIGHT, YOU SNEAKIN'  
LAW FELLERS! YOU WON'T  
GET US WITHOUT BLOOD  
BEING SHED ---  
PLENTY!

THIS FORD WILTERS  
WE'RE TRYING TO SAVE  
MUST HAVE A QUILTY  
CONSCIENCE!



WE HAVEN'T ANY GUNS, OLAF!  
BUT TELL THE OTHERS TO THROW  
ROCKS AT THE FRONT OF THE  
CABIN-- ATTRACT ATTENTION  
FROM ME WHILE I GET NEAR!

AY BAN  
GET YOU!



THAT DIVERSION GAVE ME  
A CHANCE TO GET CLOSE  
TO MY WORK!

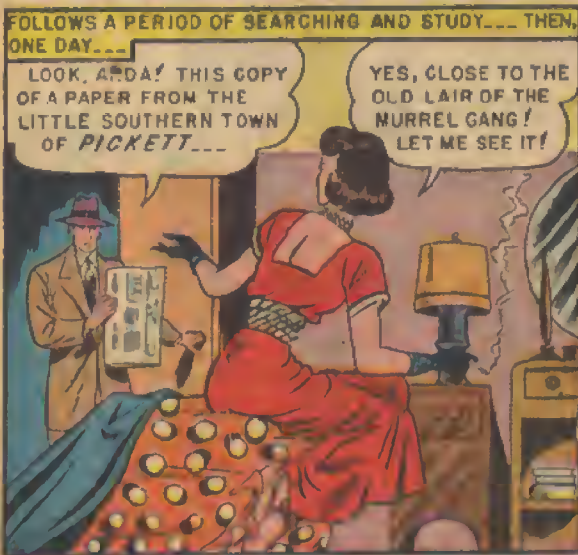


CRASH  
BANG

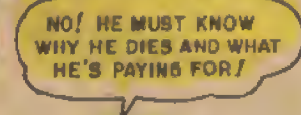
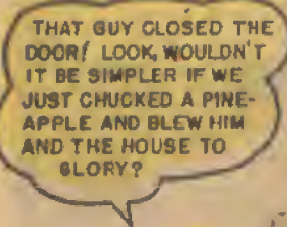
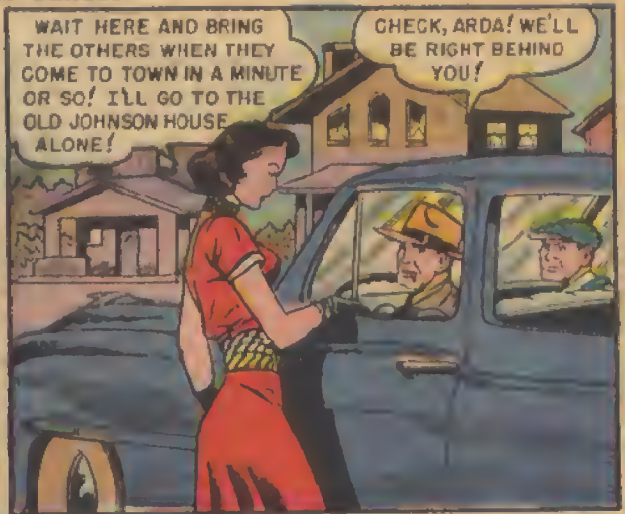
















THE KEY WORKS!  
I'M PRACTICALLY INSIDE!



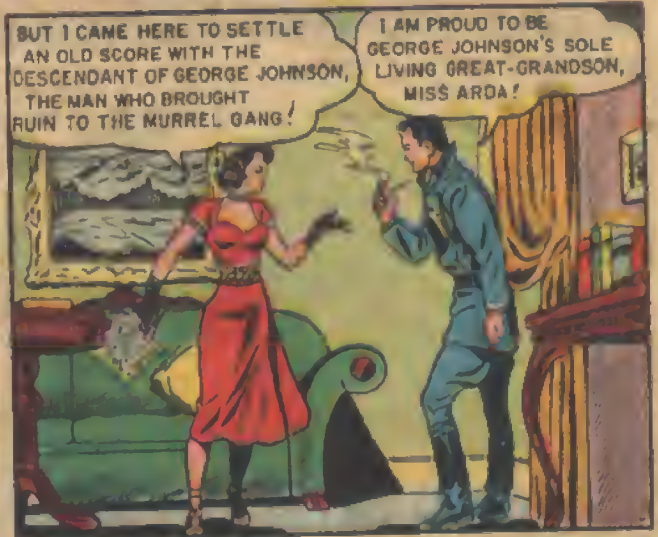
I SEE HIS SHADOW!  
IN A MOMENT...

COME RIGHT IN, MISS  
ARDA THORN! I HAD YOUR  
ARRIVAL TIMED TO THE  
VERY MOMENT!



YOU! YOU'RE...  
B-BLACKHAWK!

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU!  
WE HAVE SO MUCH TO  
TALK ABOUT!



BUT I CAME HERE TO SETTLE  
AN OLD SCORE WITH THE  
DESCENDANT OF GEORGE JOHNSON,  
THE MAN WHO BROUGHT  
RUIN TO THE MURREL GANG!

I AM PROUD TO BE  
GEORGE JOHNSON'S SOLE  
LIVING GREAT-GRANDSON,  
MISS ARDA!

HE WAS NO  
TRAITOR OR SPY,  
BUT AN HONEST  
CITIZEN, WHO  
RISKED HIS LIFE  
TO END THE LAW-  
LESS CAREER OF  
A DANGEROUS  
OUTLAW BAND!

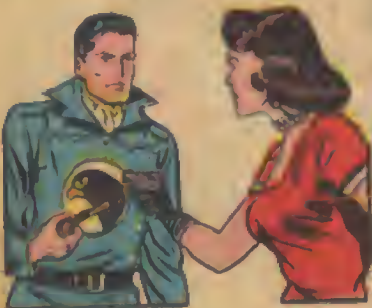
MY OWN ANCESTOR  
WAS OF THAT BAND,  
SIR! AND I'M GOING  
TO...WHY DON'T  
YOU TREMBLE?  
YOUR LIFE IS IN  
MY HANDS!

I'VE BEEN WATCHING  
YOUR METHODS  
CLEAR ACROSS  
THE COUNTRY!  
YOU'RE FIERCE,  
BUT I DON'T  
THINK YOU'LL  
FIRE UNLESS I  
THREATEN YOU!

I HAVE A GANG  
OF FOLLOWERS  
WHO AREN'T SO  
SCRUPULOUS!  
EVEN NOW THEY  
MUST BE READY  
TO CLOSE IN AT  
THE WINDOWS...

I'M NOT ALONE, EITHER! OBSERVE  
WHAT HAPPENS AT THE WINDOW  
YONDER!

HAWKAAA!





AS ARDA'S MEN REACH THE WINDOWS.



DON'T MOVE, DUNKOPF! YOU ARE MY PRISONER!

AT ANOTHER POINT...



HEY!

RIGHT INTO DAS TRAP!



I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMEBODY YELL...

BUT YOU NO MAKEE NOISE!



YOU SEE WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT? YOUR FOLLOWERS ARE ALL CAPTURED!

AND YOU KNEW WHAT WE WERE GOING TO DO ALL THE TIME!



WE FOUND OUT SOME THINGS, GUESSED OTHERS... AND THEY ADDED UP TO YOUR WHOLE ROMANTIC PLAN OF ANCESTRAL REVENGE!

I'M STILL ARMED, BLACKHAWK! DON'T ANYBODY TRY TO TOUCH ME... I'M GOING TO GET AWAY!



YOU WON'T GET AWAY THROUGH THAT DOOR, MISS ARDA! I HAPPEN TO HAVE SOMEONE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF IT WHO'S EAGER TO MEET YOU!

WHOEVER IT IS HAD BETTER SAY HIS PRAYERS, BEFORE I...



ARDA! YOU MUST BE LITTLE ARDA... THE GRANDDAUGHTER I NEVER SAW!

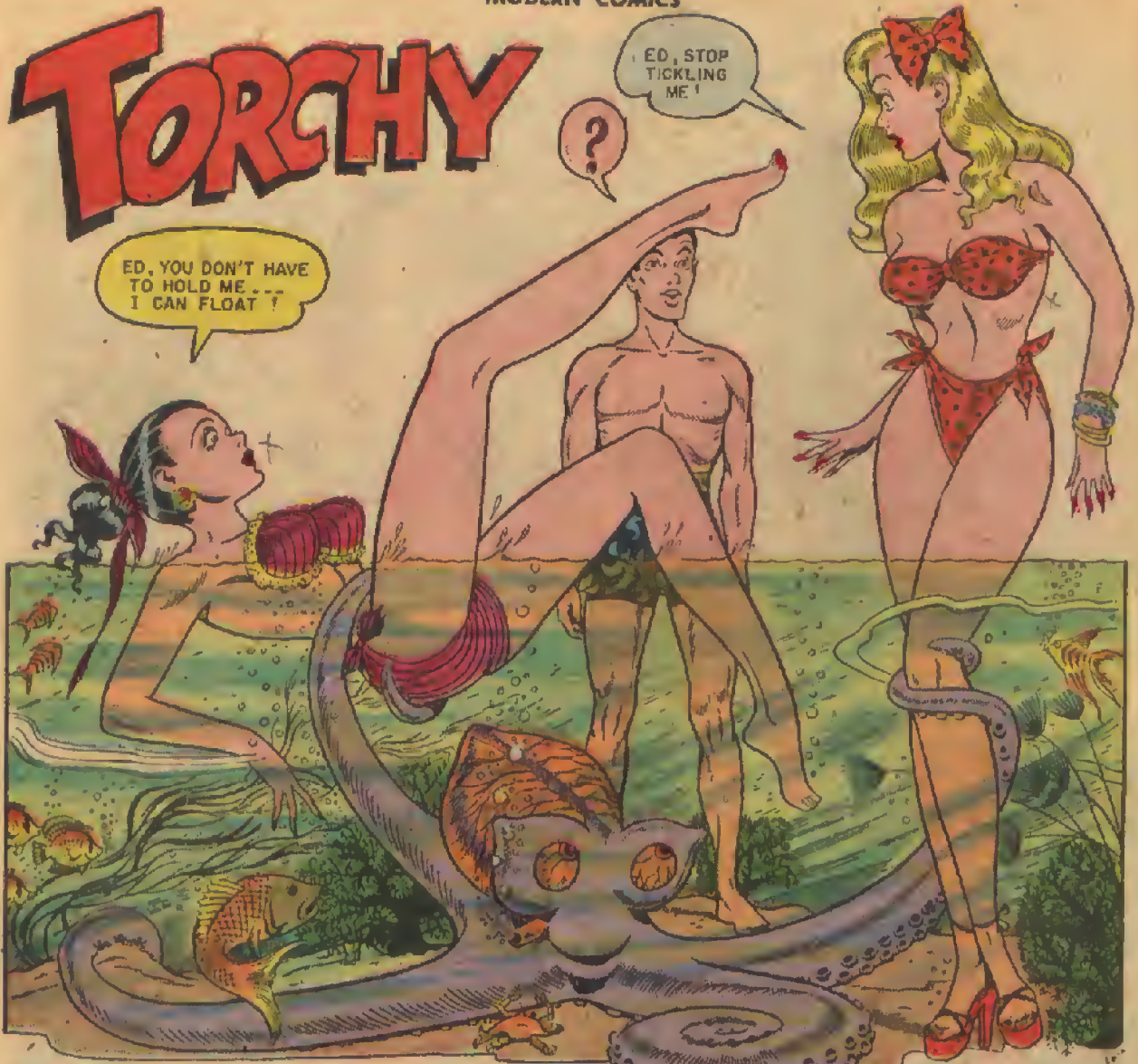
YOU LOOK AS IF YOU MIGHT BE...



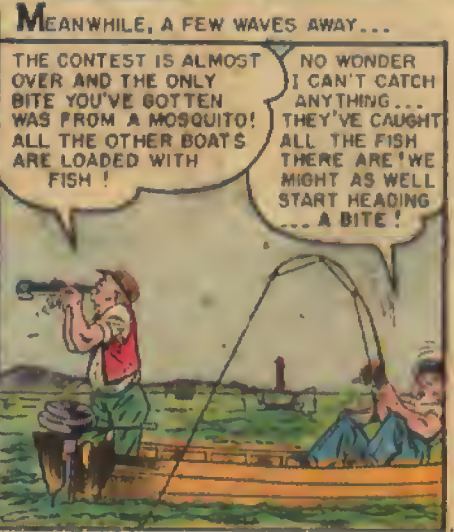
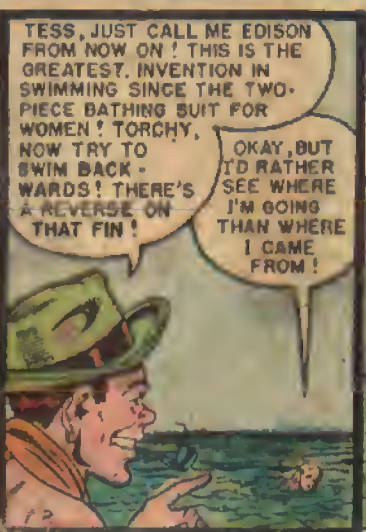
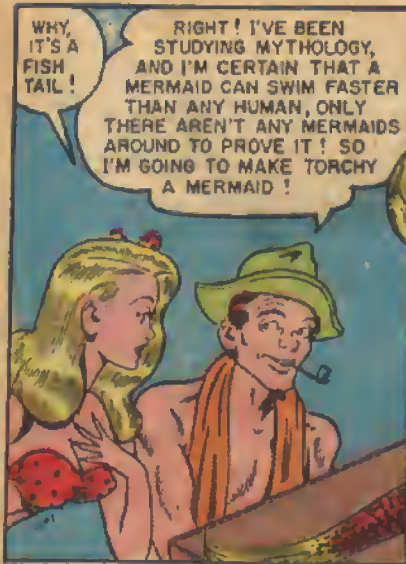




# TORCHY









HELP! GIVE ME A HAND! IT'S PULLING ME OUT OF THE BOAT!

HOLD ON TO IT! THE "BIGGEST CATCH" CUP MAY BE OURS YET!

AT THE OTHER END OF THE LINE...

YIPE! I'M BEING PULLED BACK!

LOOK AT HER GO! SHE CAN SWIM EVEN FASTER BACKWARDS!

MAYBE WE CAN BOOK HER! TORCHY'D LOVE TO BE THE FIRST WOMAN TO SWIM THE ENGLISH CHANNEL... BACKWARDS!



YOU'VE GOT A WHOPPER, I.W.! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT ONE!

WAIT TILL WE SEE THE FRONT OF HER! I'LL BET SHE'S A BEAUTY!

SHE SURE IS! YUMMY!

WOO-WOOOO! A MERMAID!



SOON AFTER...

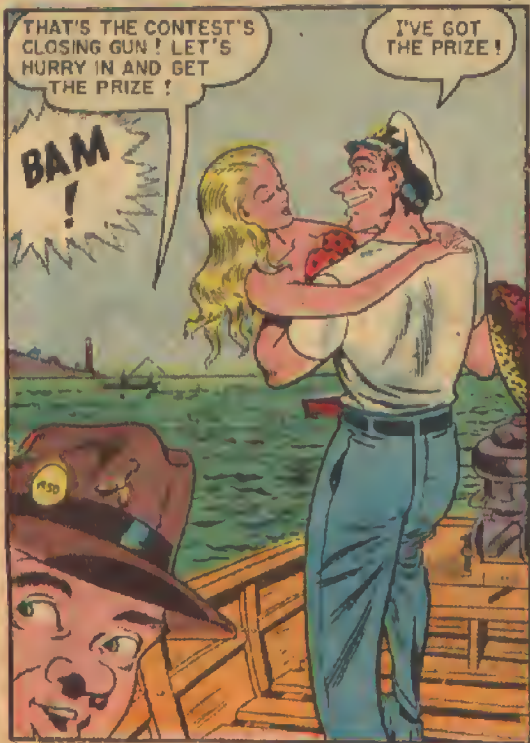
SHE CAN'T WALK, POOR DEAR! I'LL HAVE TO CARRY HER!

THAT'S THE CONTEST'S CLOSING GUN! LET'S HURRY IN AND GET THE PRIZE!

I'VE GOT THE PRIZE!

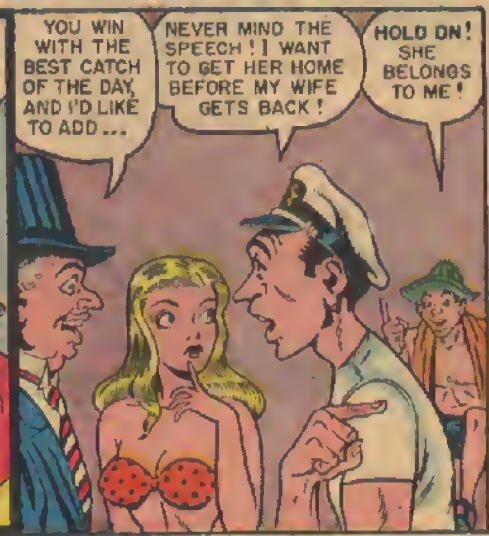
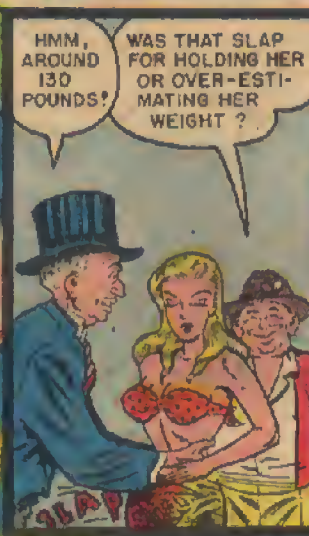
I'LL HELP!

BAM!

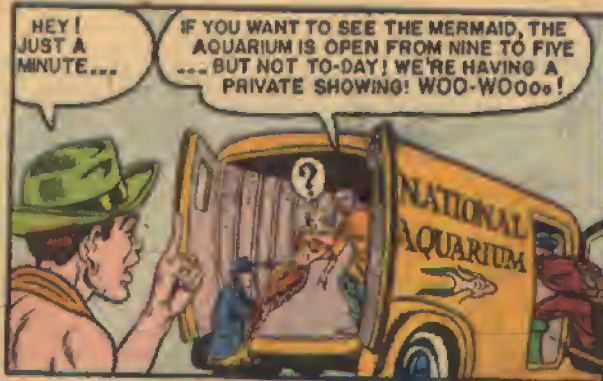




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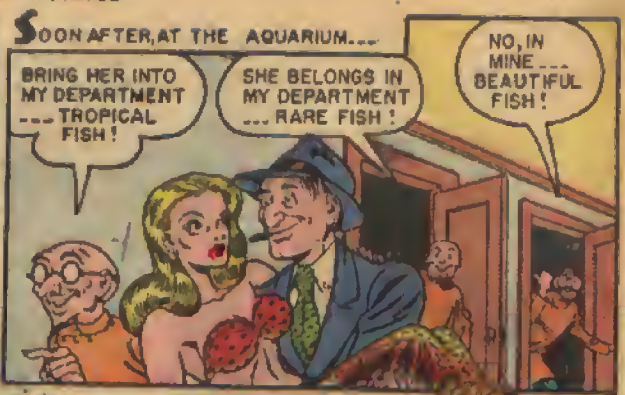






HEY!  
JUST A  
MINUTE...

IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE MERMAID, THE  
AQUARIUM IS OPEN FROM NINE TO FIVE  
--- BUT NOT TO-DAY! WE'RE HAVING A  
PRIVATE SHOWING! WOO-WOOOO!



BRING HER INTO  
MY DEPARTMENT  
--- TROPICAL  
FISH!

SHE BELONGS IN  
MY DEPARTMENT  
--- RARE FISH!

NO, IN  
MINE ---  
BEAUTIFUL  
FISH!



PROFESSOR GOOPY'S BOOK  
MAKES NO REFERENCE  
TO MERMAIDS OFF THE  
COAST HERE!

ACCORDING TO DR. F. FLOUNDER,  
MERMAIDS HAVE BLACK HAIR!  
HERS SEEMS TO BE BLONDE!  
WE'D BETTER CHECK!

OUCH!



GADZOOKS!  
HER FIN  
LOOKS FUNNY!  
IT DOESN'T  
SEEM  
FISHY!

NATURALLY!  
SHE'S BEEN  
OUT OF  
WATER TOO  
LONG! SHE'S  
LOSING HER  
NATURAL FISH  
OILS! GET HER  
INTO A TANK  
QUICK!



HOW  
ABOUT  
THIS  
TANK?

NO! THE  
ELECTRICEEL IS  
IN THERE! THE  
RESULTS MIGHT  
PROVE SHOCKING!

MY BATHTUB  
AT HOME IS  
THE PERFECT  
SIZE!



HERE'S AN  
EMPTY  
ONE!  
HEAVE-  
HO!

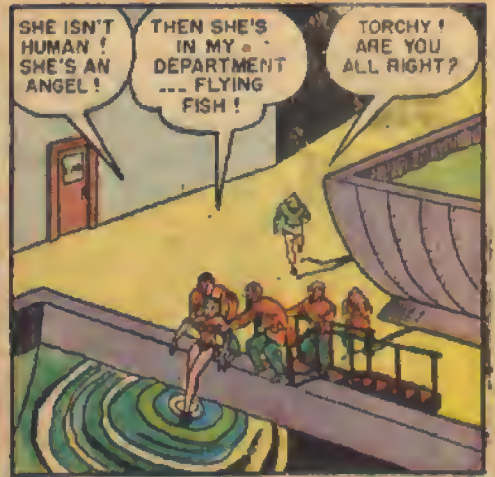
HEY,  
FELLOWS  
---



LOOK AT HER  
SWIM! WATCH  
HOW SHE  
WORKS HER  
FIN!

WHO'S  
LOOKING  
AT HER FIN?





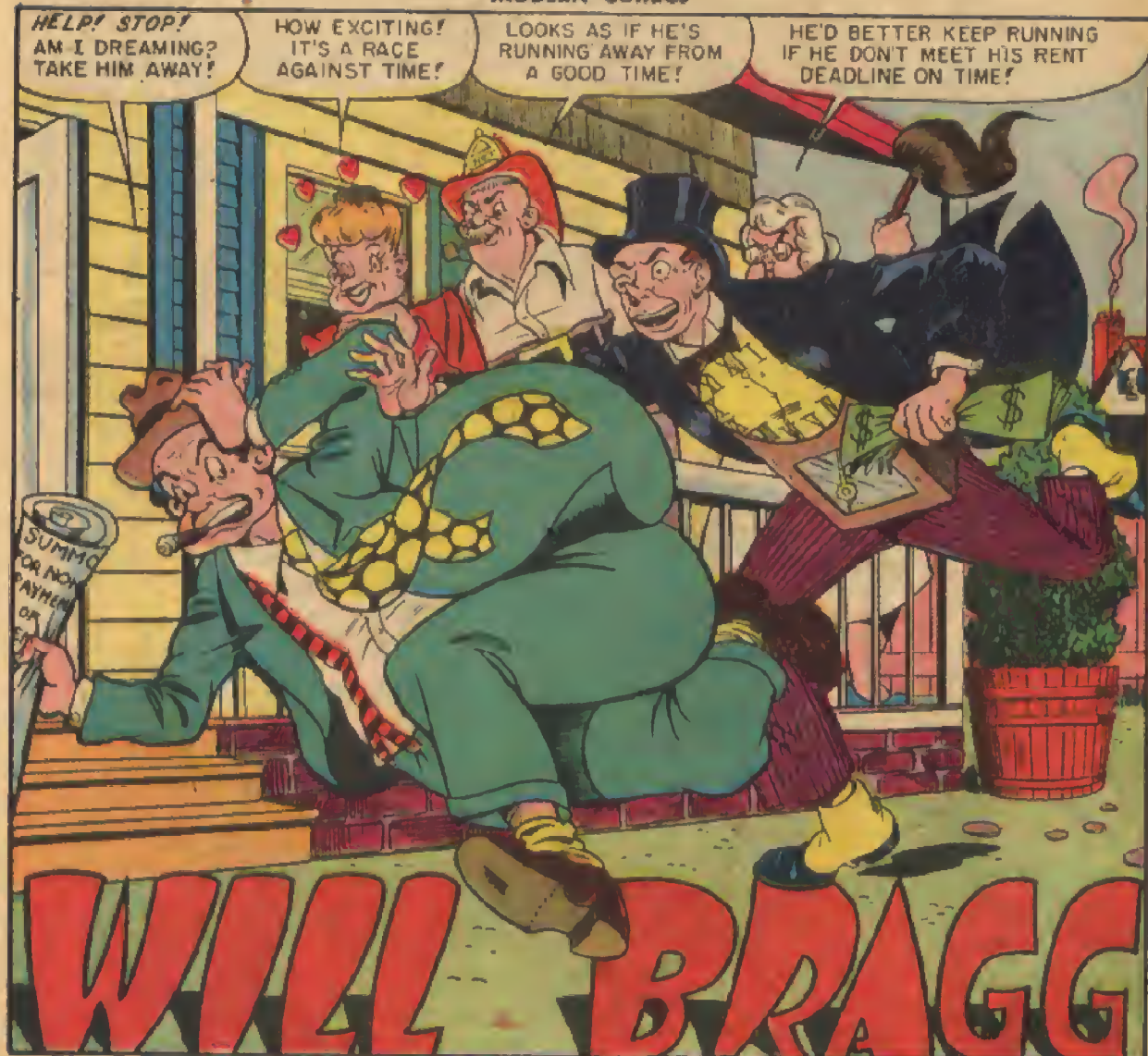
I'M A LITTLE WET AND HUNGRY! AND ALL I WANTED WAS A PEACEFUL SWIM!

DON'T WORRY, TORCHY, I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU TONIGHT! I'M TAKING YOU AND TESS OUT FOR A SPECIAL DINNER!

THAT NIGHT...









BUT, MRS. MAHOULAHAN, FARMER BUNTZ OWES ME A SUBSTANTIAL SUM FOR SERVICES RENDERED LAST WINTER, AND...

OH, PLEASE LISTEN TO HIM, MRS. MAHOULAHAN! WILL'S FERTILE BRAIN CAN MASTER ANY SITUATION!



HMMM! ALL RIGHT! IF HE DOESN'T COME ACROSS BY TONIGHT, WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM WILL FERTILIZE MY BACK GARDEN!

I'LL GET THAT MONEY, MRS. MAHOULAHAN! WHY, AFTER THE FINANCIAL PANIC OF 1929, THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK MADE ME THEIR CHIEF CONSULTANT ON ALL THEIR DIFFICULT COLLECTION CASES! HARRMPF!



OH! WILL DARLING! WHAT A MIND! WHAT TREMENDOUS POWER!

LOOKS AS IF THE OLD WITCH MEANS BUSINESS THIS TIME! SOME DAY I'LL GET EVEN WITH HER AND MOVE OUT! MAYBE I CAN WHEEL ANOTHER HAIRCUT FROM PETERS, THE BARBER, ON CREDIT! THAT'LL MAKE SIX STRAIGHT!



SORRY, WILL! I'VE RETIRED FROM THE CREDIT BUSINESS! AS OF TODAY YOUR ACCOUNT GOES ON A CASH BASIS!



HARRMPF! I'LL TAKE MY BUSINESS ELSEWHERE!

BUT, I'D BETTER COLLECT FROM FARMER BUNTZ FIRST!

HA--HA--HA!

UNLESS I GET SOME MONEY, MR. BUNTZ, I'LL BE THROWN OUT ON MY EAR!



I'M SORRY, WILL! ALL MY SPARE CASH WAS USED UP TO TREAT SOME SICK COWS. I'VE GOT NO MONEY LEFT TO PAY YOU!

BUT I'LL GIVE YOU THIS OLD CLOCK! IT'S A FAMILY HEIRLOOM AND I HATE TO PART WITH IT! IT MAY HAVE SOME VALUE!



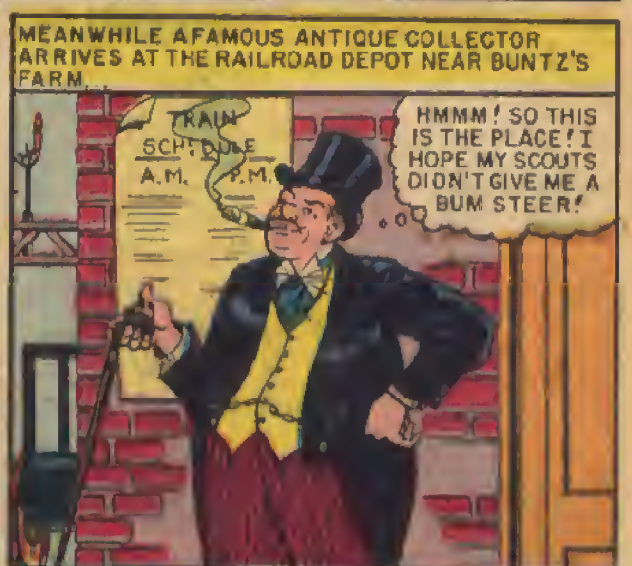
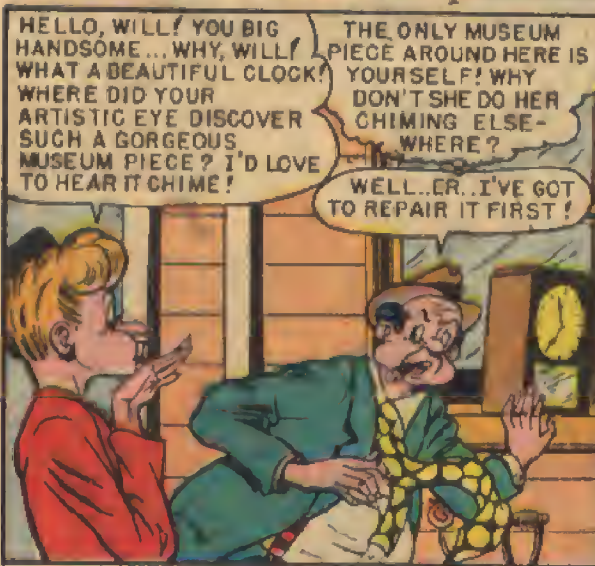
THANKS, MR. BUNTZ! AS RETIRED SALES MANAGER FOR THE TICKLESS TIME-PIECE CORPORATION, I'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE SELLING THIS BEAUTIFUL ANTIQUE CLOCK!



NOW I'M UP AGAINST IT! I COULDN'T HURT OLD BUNTZ'S FEELINGS BY REFUSING THIS PIECE OF JUNK! MAYBE I CAN SELL IT TO THE BARBER!



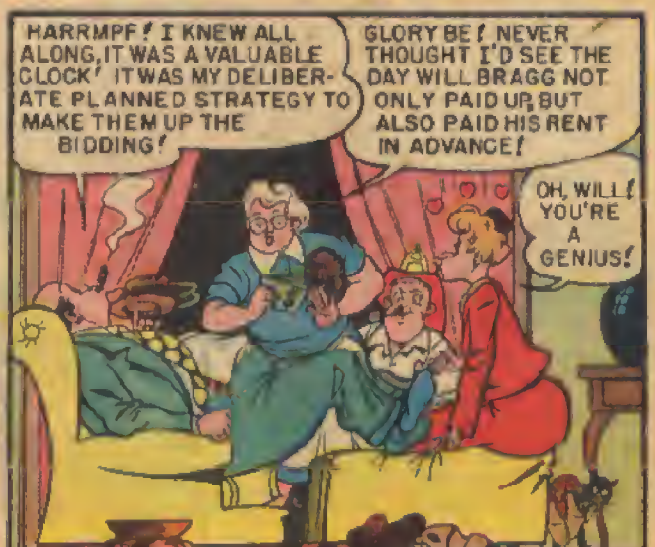














# Toll Of The Desert

**SHAKARR** the Devil, also known as the Heartless Raider and the Forgotten of Heaven, was highly pleased. His band of murderous robbers had swooped upon the isolated village of Sheik Tovar and had seized a lordly mass of plunder and also one prisoner.

That prisoner was Blackhawk himself, chief of the peerless team of international crime-fighters and the most hated enemy of Shakarr, as well as of all other rascals. Far into the trackless wastes of sun-drenched sand, the raiders of Shakarr carried their helpless enemy. At last they unbound him and set him, alone and afoot, on the earth. Sneering, Shakarr bade him go.

"You see, Blackhawk," scoffed Shakarr, "the news might come to the outer world that I had killed you. Therefore I do not kill—I release you. You have my permission to depart."

"Depart?" echoed Blackhawk. "Without water or food, alone and without help or guidance?"

Laughter went up from the other robbers. Scarcely one of them did not bear the marks of the fight in which Blackhawk was taken. They enjoyed the spectacle of his disaster.

"Do not beg for mercy," began Shakarr. "We have none—"

"I don't beg," said Blackhawk. "Goodbye, cowards and murderers."

He trudged away through the sand. In the vastness of the desert, even Blackhawk's huge, blue-clad figure looked small. Shakarr watched him happily, then signaled his men.

"Head in the opposite direction," he ordered. "Bring along the loot."

They rode all day, and camped that night at an oasis. There was a cool spring of water. It reminded Shakarr of Blackhawk, lost in the sand, without a drop to drink. If Blackhawk still lived, he suffered. Happily, the robber chief slept, but he was troubled by dreams. It seemed that Blackhawk entered his tent and looked at him scornfully.

In the morning, his right-hand man reported that half the band had deserted.

"I hear they swore that Blackhawk appeared before them," said the lieutenant. "They dared not tarry to learn why."

"Fools! Blackhawk is far away from here—and dead by now. Pack and let us travel," said Shakarr.

Another day of desert travel. Another night.

But in the morning—more desertions. Barely five men remained to Shakarr.

"Another story of Blackhawk's ghost?" demanded Shakarr. "Well, perhaps we are well rid of these men with the hearts and minds of infants. Ride on."

A third night they made camp. Shakarr himself, sat up, to watch the few men left to him.

At midnight, he heard cries of terror, and galloping hooves. The few robbers, who had braved the previous two nights, were riding away. Out from his tent he rushed, howling after them.

"Traitors!" he yelled. "Faint-hearted dogs! You leave Shakarr, your master, alone in the desert—"

"You are not alone, Shakarr," said Blackhawk's voice behind him.

Shakarr turned and goggled. Blackhawk stood there, smiling.

"It c-can't be—" stammered Shakarr.

"It can be," said Blackhawk, "and it is."

"I can't believe my eyes or ears!"

"They tell you the truth, Shakarr. You left me to die in the desert. But here I am."

"You are an evil spirit!" accused Shakarr. "You are sent to drive me insane, to make my heart stop with unknown fears."

Blackhawk shook his head. "Wrong, Shakarr. If you tremble to be here with me, let me summon company."

From the shadows stole other figures in blue—Olaf, Andre, Hendrickson, Chuck, Stanislaus, and finally, Chop-Chop.

"How—how—" babbled Shakarr.

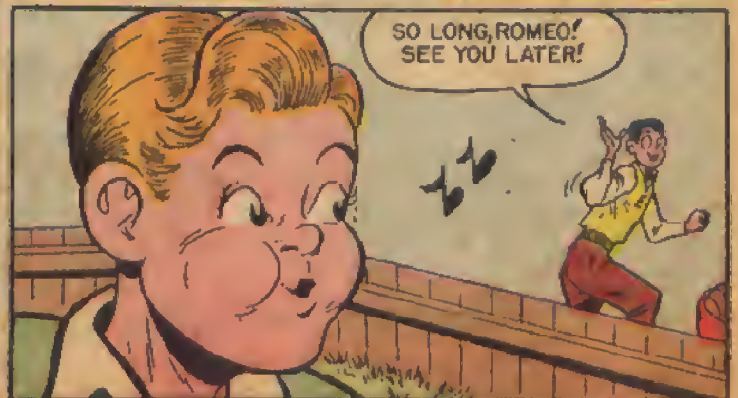
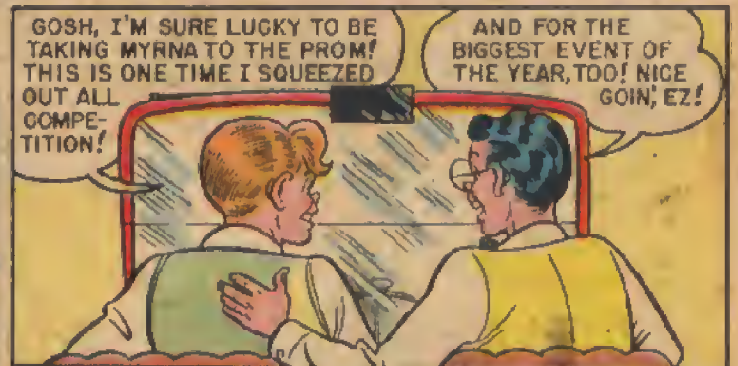
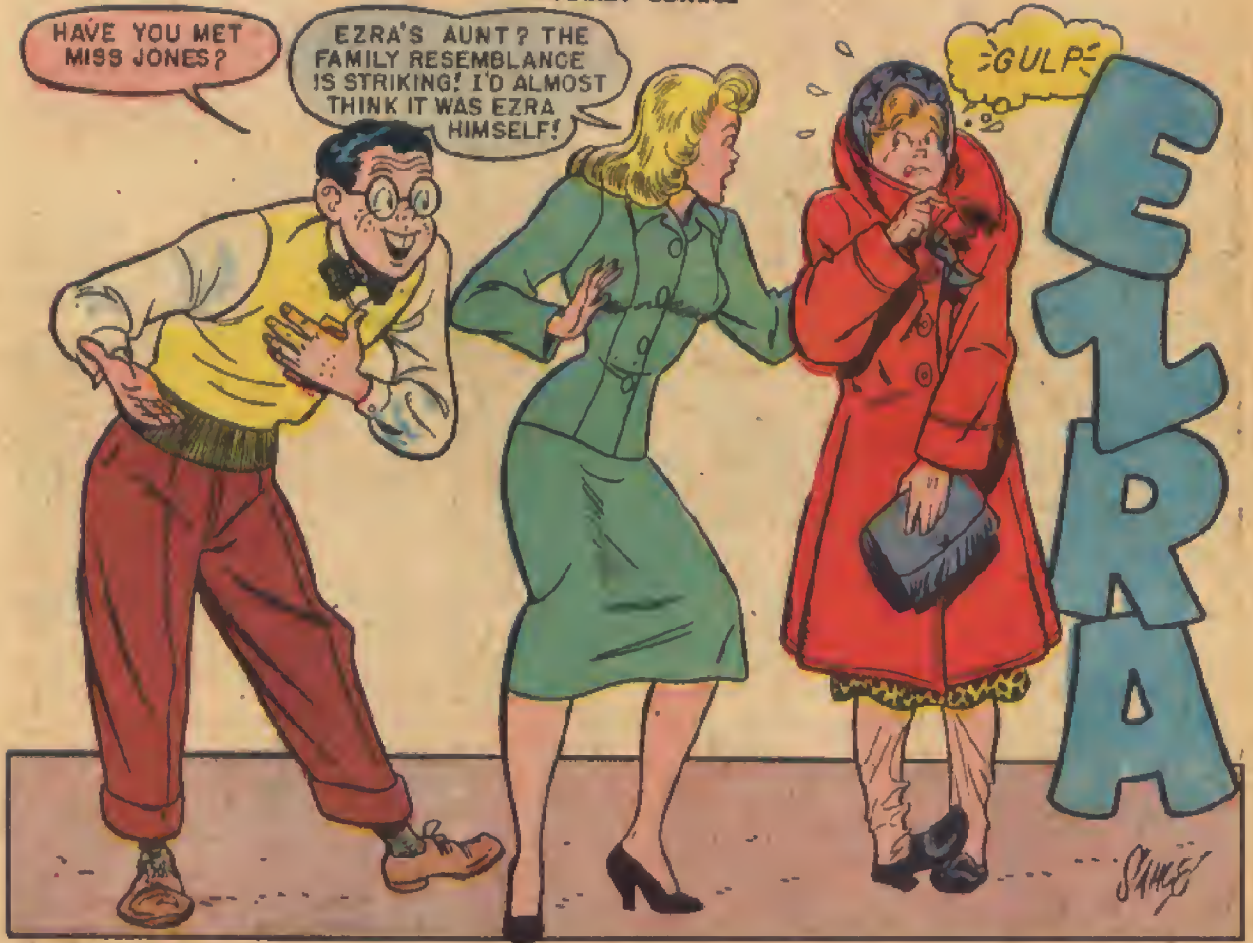
"They camped with the planes, a short distance from Sheik Tovar's village," explained Blackhawk. "In your cruelty, you thought I would die alone in the desert. But I made my way to the Blackhawk camp. We followed you by air, each night dropping down. The sight of me frightened your men away, one group after another."

Shakarr bowed his head on his chest in token of defeat.

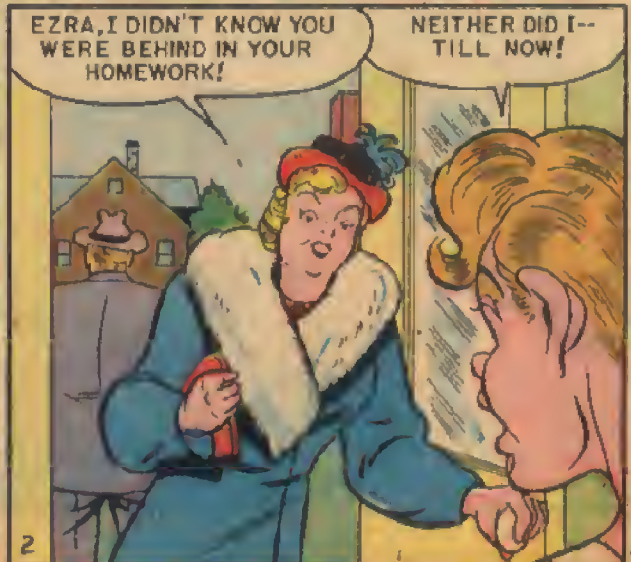
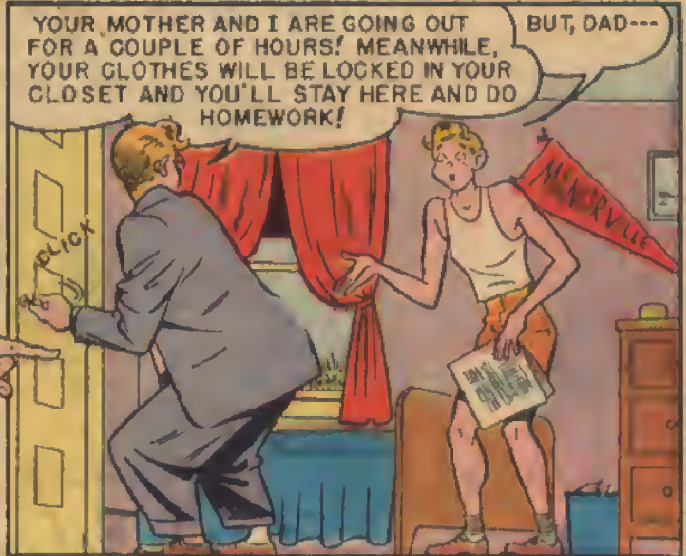
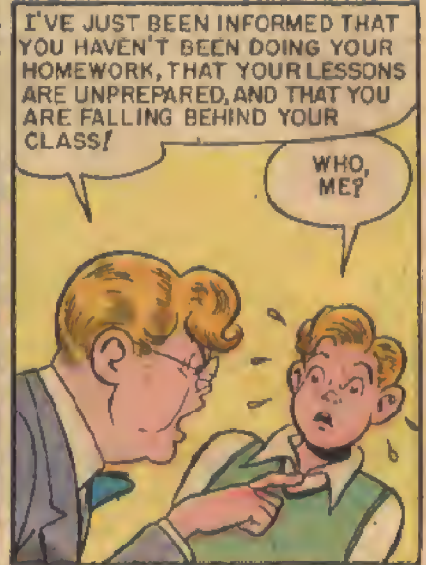
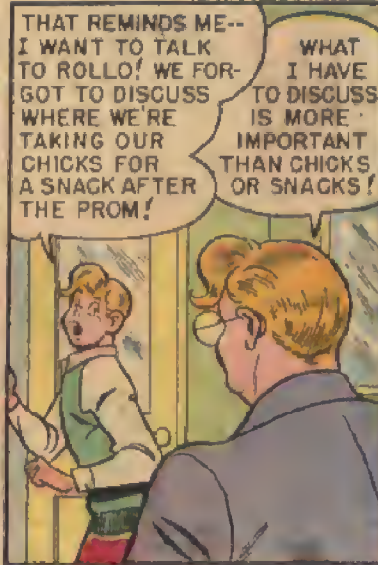
"I am helpless," he said. "I must die."

"No, Shakarr," said Blackhawk. "You must live. First we take back the stolen goods to my friend, Sheik Tovar. Then we carry you to the rulers of the land, where you will be tried and sentenced to prison. You have a lifetime before you, to regret the evils you have done."











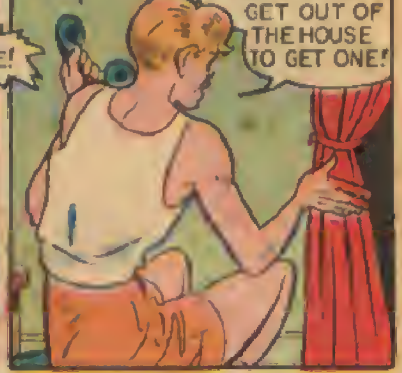
GOSH! A PRISONER IN MY OWN HOME!  
WELL, ANYWAY, I HAVE CONTACT WITH  
THE OUTSIDE WORLD BY TELEPHONE!



HELLO!  
EZRA, THIS IS  
MYRNA! I HAVE  
ONLY A MINUTE  
BECAUSE I'M AT THE  
BEAUTY PARLOR, BUT  
I KNEW YOU'D BE WON-  
DERING THE COLOR OF  
MY DRESS WHEN YOU  
WENT TO  
BUY MY  
CORSAGE!

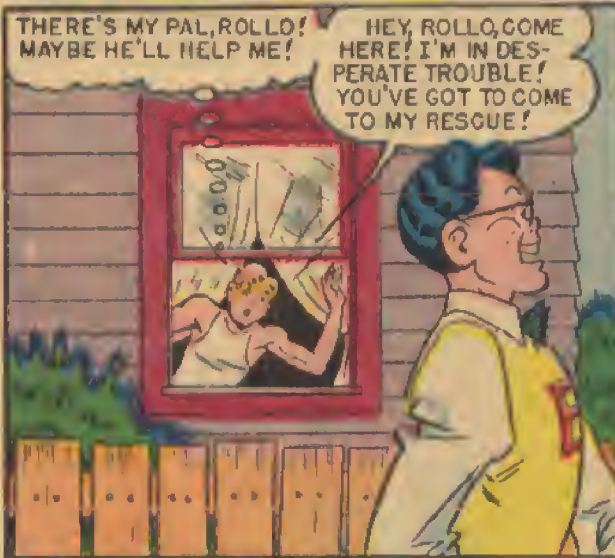


WELL, IT'S YELLOW! CORSAGE?  
I HAVE TO RUN! I NEVER  
NOW! 'BYE-EE! THOUGHT OF  
IT! ALL THE  
OTHER BOYS PROBABLY  
BUY HER  
CORSAGES! AND  
I CAN'T EVEN  
GET OUT OF  
THE HOUSE  
TO GET ONE!



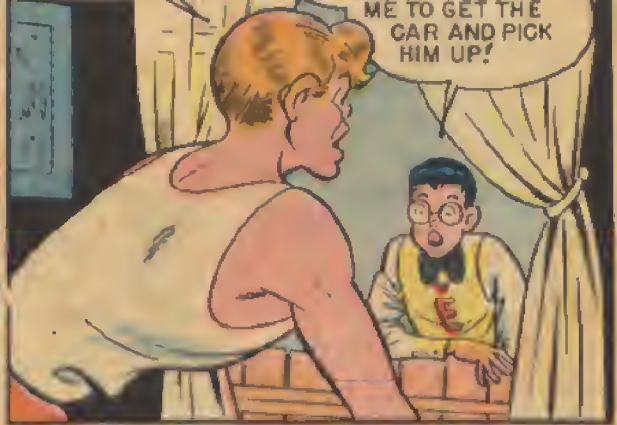
THERE'S MY PAL, ROLLO!  
MAYBE HE'LL HELP ME!

HEY, ROLLO, COME  
HERE! I'M IN DES-  
PERATE TROUBLE!  
YOU'VE GOT TO COME  
TO MY RESCUE!



—SO YOU SEE WHAT A  
PICKLE I'M IN! AND MY  
MONEY'S LOCKED UP  
IN MY CLOTHES!

GEE, EZRA, I DON'T  
HAVE ANY EXTRA CASH!  
BESIDES, I'M IN AN  
AWFUL HURRY! MY  
DAD'S WAITING FOR  
ME TO GET THE  
CAR AND PICK  
HIM UP!



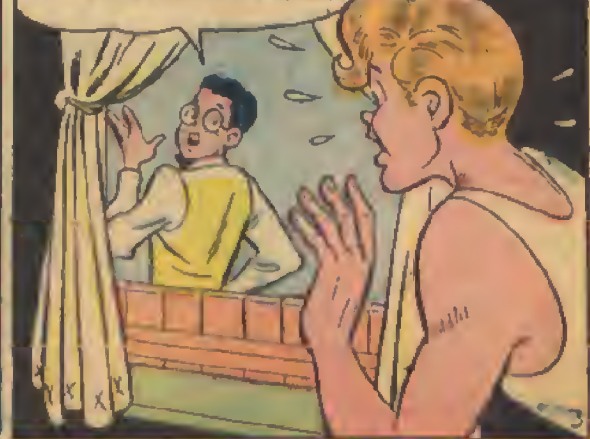
BUT I HAVE AN IDEA! YOUR  
FOLKS HAVE A CHARGE ACCOUNT  
AT FOLEY'S DEPARTMENT STORE!  
GET THE CORSAGE THERE AND  
SETTLE WITH YOUR DAD LATER!

THAT'S NO GOOD!  
FOLEY'S DON'T  
DELIVER AT THIS  
HOUR AND I CAN'T  
GO AFTER IT!

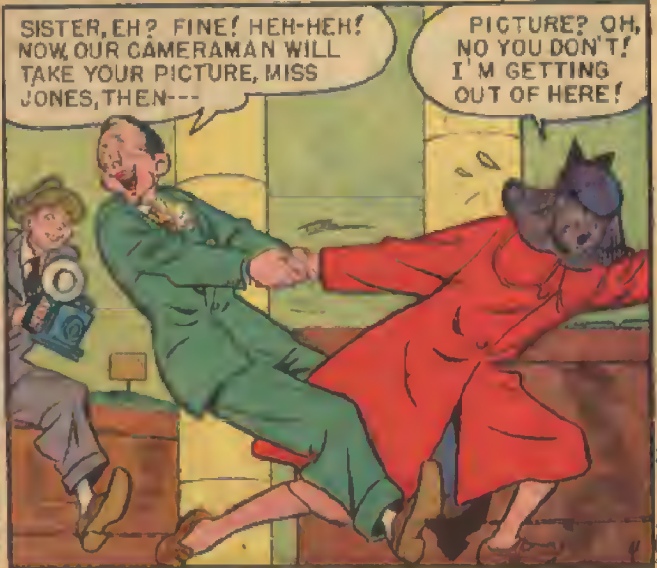
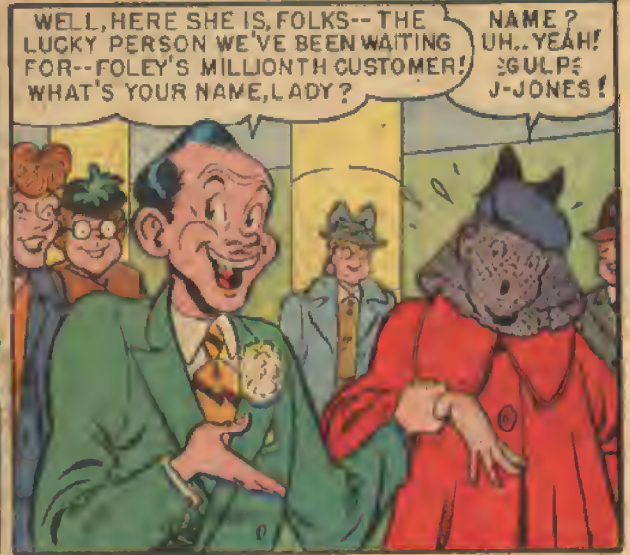


YOUR MOTHER'S CLOSET  
ISN'T LOCKED, IS IT? WEAR  
HER CLOTHES! NOBODY'LL  
NOTICE YOU IN THE CROWD!  
NOW I'VE GOTTA RUSH, EZ!

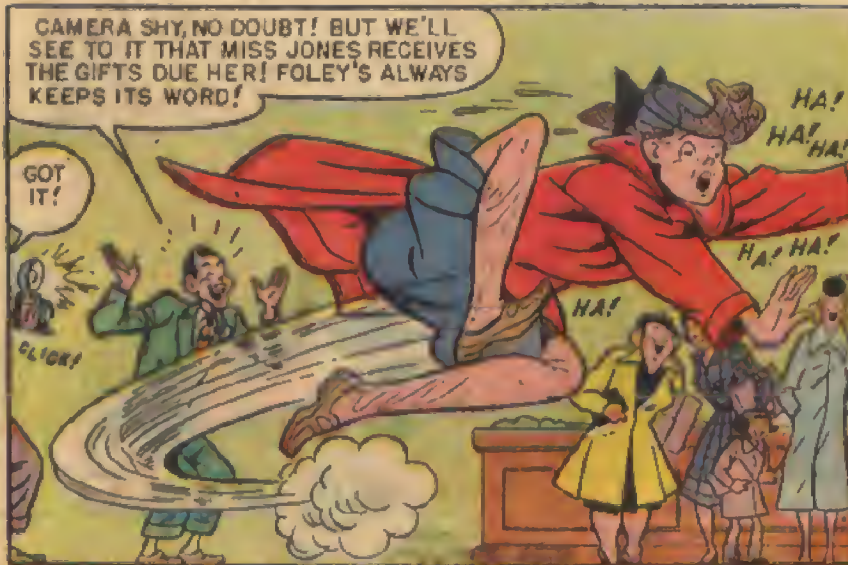
MY MOTHER'S  
CLOTHES? OH,  
NO! I COULDN'T!











TWO HOURS LATER...

WE'RE BACK, SON!  
IS YOUR HOME-  
WORK FINISHED?

SURE! I  
TRIED TO  
TELL YOU,  
DAD...

THEN I'LL UNLOCK YOUR CLOSET  
AND YOU CAN DRESS!  
I DISLIKE RESORTING  
TO SUCH TACTICS BUT  
PARENTS MUST SOME-  
TIMES BE FIRM!

SOME-  
ONE'S AT  
THE  
DOOR! I'LL  
GET IT!

MRS. JONES, WOULD  
YOU TELL ME WHERE  
MISS JONES, MR.  
JONES'S SISTER,  
LIVES? SHE WAS  
FOLEY'S MILLIONTH  
CUSTOMER AND--

THAT'S  
ODD! MR.  
JONES  
DOESN'T  
HAVE A  
SISTER!

I MAY AS WELL FACE  
IT! THE MILLIONTH  
CUSTOMER  
WAS ME!

IT DOESN'T  
MATTER, MISS  
...ER, MR...

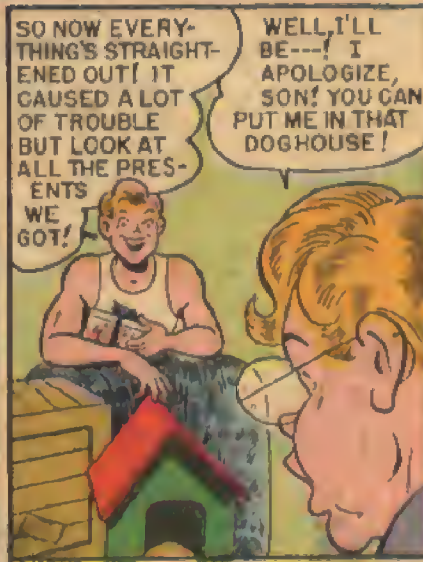
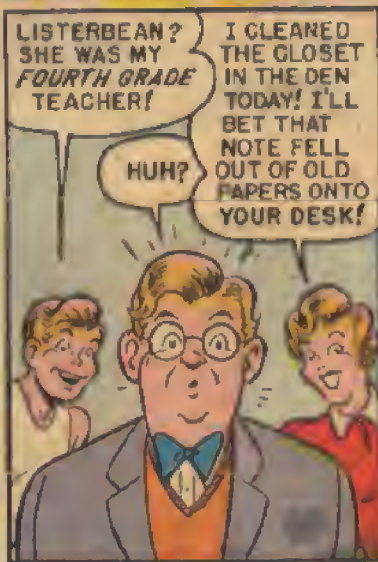
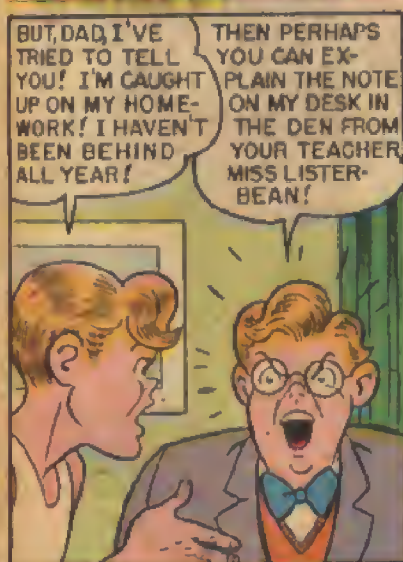
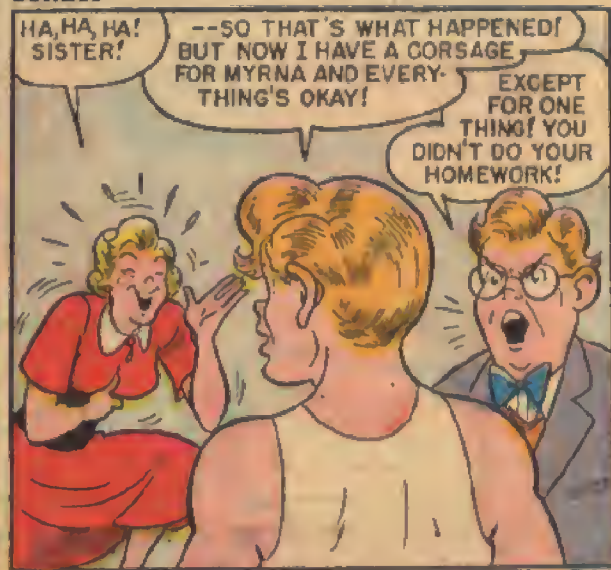
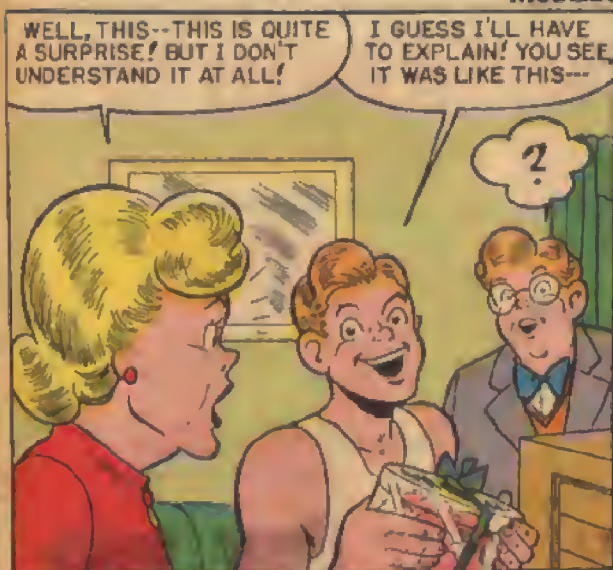
YOU?

ER... JUST  
SO WE GET  
RID OF THESE  
THINGS! OLD J.G.  
FOLEY WOULD BLOW  
HIS TOP IF FOLEY'S  
DIDN'T KEEP ITS  
WORD!

YOUR GIFTS! A FIFTY DOLLAR CREDIT AT  
FOLEY'S, A BEAUTIFUL DRESSING GOWN,  
A SET OF CHIP-PROOF CHINA, A DOGHOUSE,  
AND A GORGEOUS DOUBLE ORCHID  
CORSAGE!

A CORSAGE?  
OH, BOY!





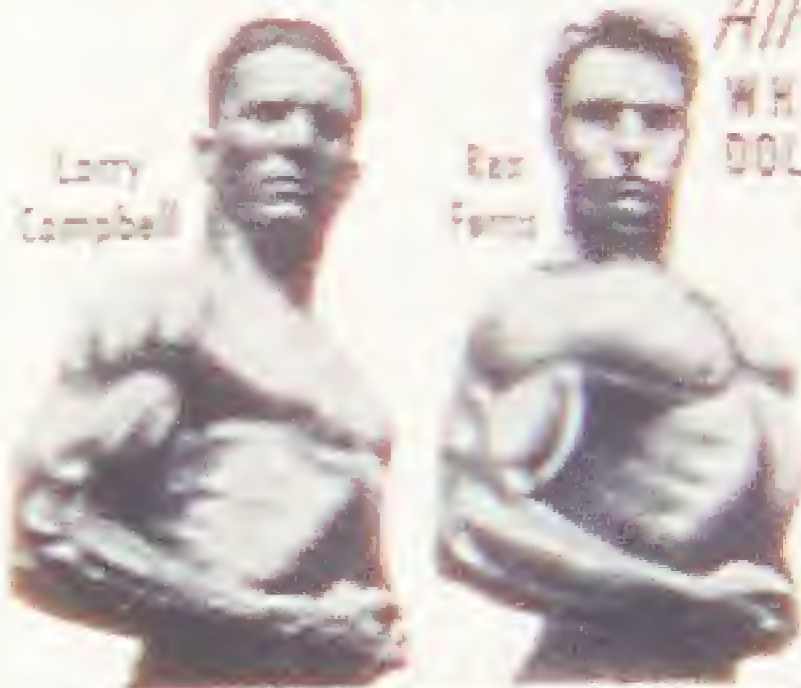






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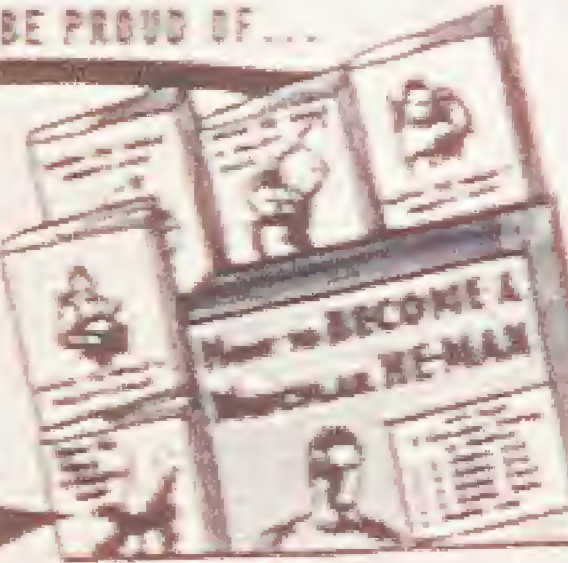
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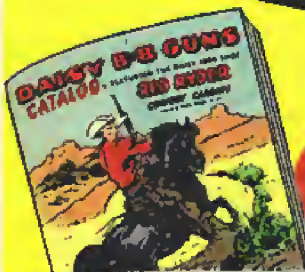
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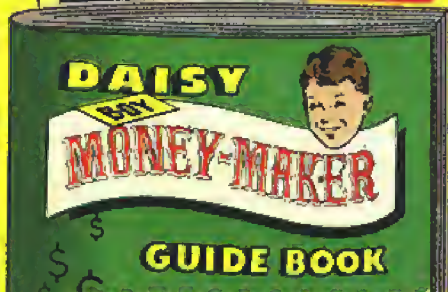
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